SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 11 through 25 with the following:

Background of the Invention

A test strip system of the above-mentioned kind is known, for example, from US-A-5424035. In the solution there described, the support surface rises slightly at the inner end of the strip receiver and has a pin intended to be received in a recess of the strip. Between this holding pin and the spot at which the test field of the test strip is to come to lie in the strip receiver is a rigid pressing element opposite [[to]] the support surface, the spacing of which pressing element from the support surface is slightly more than the thickness of a test strip. By means of this arrangement the test strip is pressed in slightly bent condition against the support surface so that the test strip, on one hand, hangs firmly on the pin and; on the other hand, the test field, by the bending of the test strip, is pressed against the support surface. The insertion and especially the removal of the test strip are each difficult and complicated and the danger exists that the user, in attempting to pull the test strip from measuring device, either dirties the device or his fingers.

Please replace the two paragraphs at page 5, line 28 through page 6, line 2 with the following:

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

The measuring system illustrated in Fig. 1 includes a measuring device 10 shown only partially in section with a ~~housing lower portion 12~~ housing lower portion 14 and a ~~housing upper portion 14~~ housing upper portion 12, as well as a strip receiver 16 in which a test strip 18 is arranged.

The measuring device is, for example, a device for the optical determination of the concentration of a given substance in a liquid, especially body liquids, for example, a device for blood sugar determination or for the quantitative determination of certain

substances in urine. The ~~housing 10,12~~ housing 12,14 contains a plate 20 with a measuring optic 22 and, in addition to that, a non-illustrated electronic evaluation and control circuit. Further, the measuring device includes an operating part and an indicator device. Measuring devices of this kind are known in themselves and, therefore, do not need to be described in more detail.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 9 through 13 with the following:

A spring arm 34 is so arranged in the carrier 24 that it rises from the ~~support surface 28~~ support surface 26 and extends inwardly toward the inner end of the strip receiver 16. The spring arm 34 is biased in the direction of the arrow A and can be pivoted against this biasing force in the direction toward the support surface 26.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 18 through 33 with the following:

Upon insertion of the test strip 18 into the strip receiver 16, the forward end of the test strip 18, that is the end facing the inside of the device, moves between the spring arm 34 and the counter-pressure surface 36 so that the test strip 18 becomes bent. In its forward area, the test strip has a detent recess 38 into which a detent nose 40 formed on the free end of the spring arm 34 becomes inserted, if the test strip 18 is inserted fully into the strip receiver 16. In this way, the correct position of the test strip 18 in the strip receiver 16 is established, in which correct position the test field 30 is located exactly over the measuring opening 28. Because of the bending of the test strip and because of the stiffness of the strip material, a restoring force is created in the strip which presses the test field 30 firmly against the support surface 26 so that the test field 30 has a definite spacing from the measuring optic 22. As will be recognized, the test strip 18 can be inserted in simple way into the ~~strip receiver 26~~ strip receiver 16 and, above all, can be again pulled out of the strip receiver in a simple way, without this simple operation encumbering the positioning accuracy.

Please replace the two paragraphs at page 6, line 38 through page 7, line 25 with the following:

In the solution illustrated in Fig. 2, the counter-pressure surface 36 is omitted. In place of it, a lid-like two-armed lever 46 with a clamping arm 48 and an actuating arm 50 is pivotally supported by the side walls 42 bordering the support surface 26 of the carrier 24 for pivotal movement about a pivot axis 44. The spring arm 34 lies on the actuating arm 50 and biases the lever 46 in the clock-wise direction so that the clamping arm 48 is pressed toward the support surface 26. If, as shown in Fig. 2, a test strip 18 is inserted into the strip receiver 16, the test strip 18 at its forward section is pressed against the support surface 26 by the clamping arm 48. The position of the test strip 18 is established by a ~~nose 42~~ nose 52 on the lower side of the clamping arm which is receivable in a detent recess 38 of the test strip 18. In this position of the test strip 18, the test field 30 is located exactly over the measuring opening 28. This embodiment is especially simple to operate. For insertion and removal of the strip 18, the actuating arm 50 of the lever 46 is pressed downwardly; that is, the lever 46 is pivoted in the counter-clockwise direction. For removal of the test strip 18, it is sufficient, at this moment, to hold the device downwardly, so that the test strip 18 falls by itself out of the device. The operating person need not again touch the used test strip.

In a variant of the embodiment illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3, the support surface 26, in which the measuring opening 28 is formed, is entirely flat and smooth. To make possible an insertion of the test strip 18, the clamping arm 48 of the clamping lever 46 has, as seen in Fig. 13, on its side facing the support surface 26 a ~~groove-shaped recess 48~~ groove shaped recess 47 in which the test strip 18 is conformably received. The edge flanges 49 of the clamping arm 48 bordering the recess 47 are received in complementary recesses of 51 in the carrier 24 to prevent a lateral shifting of the clamping arm 48 and test strip 18 and to assure a better guiding of the test strip 18.

Please replace the two paragraph at page 9, lines 9 through 26 with the following:

Fig. 10 shows an embodiment of the strip receiver in which the carrier 24 has a holding bar 88 at its inner end under which the forward end of the test strip 18 is insertable. A detent nose 90 is formed on the inner or underside of the ~~holding bar 18~~ holding bar 88 which nose is receivable in a corresponding detent opening 92 in the test strip 18 with which it fixes the test strip in a definite position.

The measuring opening 28 is surrounded on the upper side of the support surface 26 by a ring 94 which lifts the test strip 18 slightly above the support surface 26. Near the insertion end of the strip receiver 16, two noses 96 and 98 are formed on the side walls 54 of the strip receiver 16, under which noses the associated edges of the test strip 18 can be inserted. The form of the detent noses 96 and 98 is illustrated in cross-section in Figs. 11 and 12. Naturally, both detent noses can have the same form. As seen in Fig. 10, by the reception of the test strip under the bar 88, on one hand, and under the noses 96 and 98, on the other hand, the test strip 18 is bent over the ring 94 so that the test field 30 lies securely and flatly on the ring 94 and, therefore, has a definite spacing relative to the measuring optic lying beneath the opening 28. (Note: nose 98 is not shown in the sectional view of Fig. 10).

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 1 through 14 with the following:

The lever 46 serves in the Fig. 14 embodiment to lift the contact springs 100 from the contact elements of the test strip 18 and thereby to simultaneously free the test strip 18 so that it can fall out of the measuring device 10 when the measuring device is held with its insertion opening facing downwardly. Instead of the clamping arm 48, the lever 46 in this embodiment has a claw 102 which extends around the free ends of the contact springs 100 so that by the pivoting of the lever 46 in the counter-clockwise direction of Fig. 14, the contact springs 100 are lifted from the support surface 26 and from the test strip 18. The lever 46 can, as in the embodiment of Figs. 2 and 3, be returned to its original position by the spring arm 34. As the case may be, the spring

effect of the ~~contact springs 20~~ contact springs 100 may also be sufficient for this purpose. The measuring area of the measuring device 10, illustrated in Fig. 14, is closed by a cover 104 which has only one opening 106, through which the lever 46 can be actuated.